



MARTHA GRAY.

MEMORIAL

OF

MARTHA GRAY, OF BOSTON,

Widow of Captain Robert Gray.

MARCH 27, 1846.

Read, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House to-morrow.

*To the honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the United States
in Congress assembled.*

The petition of Martha Gray

RESPECTFULLY SETS FORTH—

That your petitioner is the widow of Captain Robert Gray, well known as the navigator who discovered, first entered, and gave its present name to the "Columbia river." That your petitioner was left a widow nearly forty years ago, with four young daughters, and without adequate means for their education and support. That she has struggled thus far through life amidst great difficulties and severe trials, and in her advanced age is still in circumstances requiring the strictest economy. That her daughters are yet living, and three of them remain unmarried. That her late husband, Captain Gray, was in the naval service of his country during a part of the war of the Revolution, but that your petitioner is unable, under the existing laws, to entitle herself to be placed upon the list of United States pensioners, the "act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows, and for other purposes" providing only for widows whose marriage took place before the 1st day of January, 1794, and her marriage having taken place in the month of February, 1794. That neither her late husband, during his lifetime, nor his family, since his decease, have received the slightest pecuniary benefit from the great discovery herein referred to; and your petitioner now, for the first time, appeals to the justice of her country, with confidence that, at the moment when your honorable body is spreading before the world the claims of the United States to a vast territory of immense value, and founding these claims, to a great extent, upon a discovery made by the energy and perseverance of one of her citizens, the family of that citizen will not be suffered, in their humble circumstances, to go without any remuneration; but that your honorable body will make such pro-

vision as a sense of justice and the honor of the nation seem to require for the aged widow and unprotected daughters of the man who first unfurled the flag of our country upon the "great river of the west," and who was the first to bear this flag in triumph round the world.

With due respect,

MARTHA GRAY.

Boston, *January 17, 1846.*